

FUTURE OF DAM IN QUESTION

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality wants the City of Corunna to do something with the Corunna dam, but what that something will be and how much it will cost is still uncertain.

The dam is on the state's significant danger list, according to Trevor Wagonmaker, engineering consultant for Capital Consultants in Lansing. The state could eventually push the city to either repair or destroy the dam.

However, the Corunna Dam Review Committee has decided to wait to make a final recommendation to council until it gets more cost information and input from the community. "(Eventually), it will be the people's choice", said committee chairperson Don Mehig.

Capital Consultants was hired by the city to study the dam and give suggestions for its future. They came up with four options: complete removal, lowering the existing dam and creating rapids at the site, building a new dam, or repairing the dam.

The most costly of the four would be to build a new dam, estimated at \$1.8 million, with no state grants available to help with the cost. Repairing the dam would cost approximately \$850,000 with no grants available. Complete removal of the dam would cost in the area of \$750,000 but Wagonmaker

believes there are grants available to cover most, if not all, of the cost. Creating rapids out of the existing site would cost approximately \$450,000 and would keep some water ponded above the rapids for recreation. There may be grant money available to help with this cost.

The biggest obstacle to any of the options is money. Corunna City Manager, Joe Sawyer, told the Dam Review Committee that the city does not have any funds available to put into the dam. If money is needed, it will probably come from Corunna residents in the form of an additional millage on city taxes.

To get an idea how Corunna residents feel about this issue, there is a brief questionnaire enclosed with this newsletter with a more detailed survey to follow in the future. Residents are asked to give their opinion regarding the dam then return the questionnaire to Corunna City Hall. The next meeting of the Corunna Dam Review is on April 18, 4 p.m., at Corunna City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

NEW RESIDENTIAL FLOODING LAW

On January 2, 2002, Public Act 222 of 2002 amended Public Act 170 of 1964. The new amendment states that, if you experience an overflow or back up of a sanitary or storm sewer system in your home, you must file a written claim with the City of Corunna within 45 calendar days after the overflow or backup was discovered to be eligible to recover damages to your property, if the city is determined to be at fault, based on the following criteria:

To file a claim with the city, the homeowner must show that the city's sanitary or storm sewer system had a defect, that the city knew or should have known about the defect, the defect was not remedied by the city in

a reasonable amount of time, that your property damage or physical injury resulted because of the defect, and that the property is owned by the complainant and the related value of the damaged property has been given to the city. Any approved damage claim will be based on the depreciated value.

Property owners in the city are asked to call Corunna City Hall at 743-3650 or Tim Crawford at 743-5040 as soon as a sanitary or storm sewer has backed up in your home. It is recommended that homeowners contact their insurance company **before** any flooding occurs to see if they are covered for sewer flooding. Installation of a backflow device on floor drains is also recommended by the city.

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Library Activities

The spring session of the pre-school story hour at the Corunna Public Library will be held on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. from now until April 24. Children must be at least three years old and be pre-registered to attend the story hour.

WEED AND GRASS CONTROL

The City of Corunna will again be strictly enforcing its ordinance concerning weed and grass control this season.

On property of less than one acre, property owners must keep weeds, grass and other rank vegetation cut to less than six inches in height, and dead weeds, grass or brush cannot be allowed to accumulate on the property.

On property of more than one acre, property owners must keep grass, weeds and other rank vegetation cut to less than six inches within 50 feet from the edge of the street or property line and dead weeds, grass or brush cannot be allowed to accumulate on the property.

In either case, violation of this ordinance will result in a fine of \$300 plus departmental costs to be assessed to the property owner. Residents are asked to call the Corunna City Clerk, Yvonne Long, at 743-3650 if they have any questions.

The Friends of the Corunna Library are sponsoring a book/author discussion on Monday, April 15, at 7 p.m. This informal group meets every other month to give opinions on books or videos that they have enjoyed. Participants, who have attended previous meetings, have expressed how these meetings helped them decide what to read or view next. New participants are always welcome.

The Summer Reading Program for children of all ages will begin on June 10 and run through July 26. This summer's theme is "Catch a Dragon by the Tail". Children are encouraged to sign up for this fun program and earn rewards for reading. Two special performances will also take place at the library during the summer.

Call Sue Huff or Cathy Cramer at 743-4800 for more information.

DONATIONS FOR FIRE DEPT.

Donations are still being taken by the Corunna-Caledonia Fire Department for the purchase of a thermal imaging camera. The camera, which costs \$20,000, will help firefighters locate hot spots inside burning buildings as well as missing people.

Donations can be dropped off at Corunna City Hall, weekdays, from 9 am to 4:30 pm. For more information, call Bill Pearsall at 743-5766



Parks and Recreation



McCurdy Park is again "springing" to life with activities for young and old.

The biggest change to the park this year is the building of a new bathroom facility next to the Playscape. Construction started on this project in March and is expected to be completed in time for the Fourth of July Celebration.

According to Janet Washburn, Corunna's parks and recreation director, plans are also underway to refinish the wood floors in the Community Center. It is hoped that this will be completed in April.

BURNING IN CITY

The Corunna-Caledonia Fire Department would like to remind residents that burning in barrels and the burning of leaves or brush is allowed only on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Burning on any other day or time or burning large piles of brush must have a burning permit from the fire department. Garbage or treated lumber cannot be burned at any time. Campfires can be burned from 8 a.m.-1 a.m., on any day.

All burning must be 15 feet away from any building and three feet from any paved street. It must be watched while it is burning and water must be readily available. For questions or to get a burning permit, call 743-6479 and leave a message for Fire Chief Scott Johnson.

The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to start a Euchre Club to be held at the Community Center one evening a week. If you are interested, please call Corunna City Hall at 743-3650 on Tuesdays or Thursdays and ask for Janet Washburn.

POLICE REMINDERS

GARBAGE PICK-UP

Residents must contract with their own refuse company to pick up their garbage in the City of Corunna. The garbage container or bag is to be placed as near the back door of the residence as possible except on an alley where the container or bag can be next to the alley if it is shielded from street view. Containers are to be replaced in the same spot they were removed by the refuse company.

FREE GUN LOCKS

Anyone who has a firearm at their residence can stop into the Corunna Police Department and pick up a free gun lock. These locks will work with handguns and long guns.

JUNK VEHICLES

Non-operating vehicles or any unsightly junk or debris cannot be left out in the open for more than 30 days. At the end of that time, a ten-day notice will be given to have the nuisance removed or it will be removed by the city and the owner charged with a \$300 fine and the cost of removal.